(40)

The Lizard. 10? March 1909

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Wednesday

My Billy

You have not missed much in the way of weather by going. Yesterday wasn't so bad, though there was a cold wind. Today it is much colder. There is also a sea-mist which we have not had the courage to face this morning. I suppose we

I read hurriedly your letter & pair of scissors have, which are to use for the seaweed & one more with which I enclose you many warm thanks. It is a most ingenious piece of work, & quite invaluable. I am glad you received it safely. I would can return

(40)

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My Billy

You have not missed much in the way of weather by going. Yesterday wasn't so bad, though there was a cold wind. Today it is much colder. There is also a sea-mist which we have not had the courage to face this morning. I suppose we

I heard however, yesterday that you left a pair of scissors here, which are the reason I write now. I also make which I enclose as an enigmatical piece of writing, the use of which you alone in this world can discover.

shall this afternoon.

Interruption by Sunday.

I had not time to go on before going out to send you a post card. Lest you should think I had fallen down a cliff. The north east wind was so vile that I could not face it for long & turned back.

I have had several letters since you went. One from Helen Vernall who wants to come & stay with us

for two nights at the end of the month. rather surprising - a long poem from Walter Lamb & a letter asking if he can come to us for Saturday night, which of course I am extremely sorry he can't do! & an offer of some tickets for a French lecture from Olivia Frankfield.

I thought of you this afternoon while I sat over the fire here. entertaining Lytton in Fitzroy Sq. Did he ask you to marry him again or are you still Platonic? I suppose you & Adrian are now sitting together after dinner

& I hope Adrian's eyes are not shut. How is he? I felt repentant for all my abuse of him when I thought that he might really be feeling very ill or something. But I hope he's all right. I heard from Sonia that the Arcot plan has come to nothing as the pay was very bad & she would have had to give up all her time to it. Clive & I are left alone with two old ladies in this house. All that noisy party have gone.

How deadly any letters you write to me from this place but you told me to write so VB.

T. PARSONS 3.2.73

(41)

The Lizard. 11th March 1909

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Thursday.

My Billy

I suppose you are now after dinner entertaining Lytton & Hilton Young. Wish I could see you all about it. We are besieged in our fastness here by rain & wind & icy cold. Clive braved it this afternoon & went for a walk. I was too cowardly to do more than totter up to the Great Western Office on a vain quest for my washing

2 stones from London. The
washing has at last
come but no sign of the
stones - I now I begin
to fear that all the costly
some delicacies I ordered
will arrive only as we
leave again for London.
The weather is really vile
It cant be as cold as this
in London. In fact if it
weren't for the business of
moving Julian I think
we should try to remove

to Torquay or some warmer
place. A fleet of torpedo
boats passed us this morn-
ing. That is all the
news. We have had a
telegram from Sickert asking
us to lend us John to
a German exhibition. It's
a great nuisance but we
shall have to.

Are you going to Wem
I wonder. It seems as if
the old lady were really
dying. What a mercy that
that timid little boat Ruby
is dead. I suppose you are

happy at work again as
Mel. I envy you. What
wouldn't I give for a steady
uninterrupted two months
work. Here I do vague
sketches out of the window
& of Julian. & shit vague
tearts for him. He has
been rather wretched since
you went with a tooth or
something but is now
happier again. Shall
you embark on motherhood?

I suppose you will soon
decide that question.

Love

VB.

42

12 March 1909

The Lizard.

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Friday.

My Billy.

You do seem to be having a most dismal time. How is Adrian really? I suppose you would tell me the truth. The weather has improved here. It is still cold but there isn't so much wind & we went for a walk & it was really very beautiful. You tell me to describe the work

Do send me long letters. They are sadly wanted

Unwelcoming. It is most disagreeable

42

12 March 1909

The Lizard.

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Friday.

My Billy.

You do seem to be having a most dismal time. How is Adrian really? I suppose you would tell me the truth. The weather has improved here. It is still cold but there isn't so much wind & we went for a walk & it was really very beautiful. You tell me to describe the world

Handwriting. It is most otherwise desirous. Do send me long letters. They are sadly wanted.

VSB

of things. But how can I?
Besides I'm not basking
on a cliff as you imagine,
like a seal. If I were a
seal as I believe you imagine
me to be I should no doubt
bask in all weathers.
Being only a dolphin I
need the sun. Today it
was all grey with only one
brilliant streak of light
in the distance. I kept
thinking of how various
painters would have treated

it & decided that they would all have made bad jobs of it & I flattered myself that I saw how it might be treated but I could not do it. A melancholy water colour of a funeral is my only achievement. You writers, however, do not know the joy of experimenting in a new medium - especially in one of which one is quite ignorant. One seems to come upon so many unexpected capacities in oneself.

Tonight Clive & I have

had a lengthy argument
about this Burglary. Have
you read it? Do do so
& send me your candid
& detailed opinion, for I
am curious to know what
other people think. Clive
& I are so different in
our views. & I cannot
express mine. Our other
have come, to our joy. We
get more attentive & even
lost luncheons now that
you have gone. You will be
sorry to hear that I have
inflicted a scar on the inside
of the joint of my first right
hand finger in the making of my

(43)

The Lizard. 13 March (1909)

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Sat.

My Billy.

It occurs to me that if I don't send you a line by this post you won't hear till Tuesday. It is at last fine & comparatively warm with quite a bright sun. I hope you're feeling more cheerful. As you are arranging to have Walter Lamb to feed with you I suppose you aren't going to Cambridge. Your letter

has just come by the post- which was belated by about 4 hours - it was being after luncheon. What an awful description you give of the Fishers & Tredegards. I knew she was just like all the rest - They are a mildewed lot. And Mary may possibly have the remnants of a second hand atmosphere - but more there can be no doubt - that

the world would be a cleaner & a better place if they could all be cremated at once. Is there really nothing the matter with Adrian beyond a cold? I should have thought he had much better see Host, because he is very sensible & cheerful & I think & rather down on coddling. He'd probably send Adrian out of doors & tell him he would be quite well if he thought himself so, as I expect is the truth. Anyhow had tele him something definite by

But that may be just what Adrian doesn't want. Males, as you say, are very odd.

Your loofah is here. I'll bring it back & your scissors. I had a letter from Lytton who sounded rather depressed. All the world seems like it – What will you be with Walter Lamb on you? I suppose he can easily be put up at Trinity Lodge as two of our domestics are there as well as the care-letters. Don't expect any but mighty dull letters from me.

V.B.

(44)

The Lizard. 15 March (1909)

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

Monday.

My Billy.

I am glad you have decided to get Hort. Tell me truthfully what he says. I wish we were back in London. for everything seems rather dismal both here & there. but it would be better to be all close quarters. However. I suppose if as you say Adrian has quite a good appetite there can't be much wrong. Other wise

it sounds rather like influenza which seems to be rampant, & then I should be afraid that you'd get it too. Do take care not to, & eat oranges. Really it isn't worth while getting ill. Yesterday was cold with snow showers. Today we woke up to find the snow thick on the ground & a dark sky. Then the snow came on in thick sheets & is still going on. It's probably unprecedented

at the Lizard! We made
up our minds to come
home on Wednesday. but
now on second thoughts we
have decided to stay till
Friday as all our plans are
made for that. There
are occasional intervals
of blue sky here. but at
this moment I look out
on a grey sky with rain
falling thickly & hiding
the sea. It rather annoys
to have come here for this.
I suppose however that it's
as bad or worse everywhere
else. Redgrave must
have elements of great

stupidity in her. At my worst I'm not like that! How revolting fishes are. I never want to see any of them again: the mere thought of them makes my back curl. & I know Redgrave is armed with the same wish. I could tell it in a moment when I saw her at the Verralls.

Tell me how you are & for goodness' sake don't get influenza or I shall desert my family & come teaming back. I'm already getting rather restive.

Yours VW.